

does not appreciate all that the attainment of air power implies. First-class aircraft and engines, Lord Tedder said, our aircraft industry has given us. But much more is necessary, and nothing is more important than getting the right men. The Air League can do for the R.A.F. what in days gone by the Navy League did for the Navy, in the days when that was our first line of defence, a role now assumed by the Royal Air Force.

Given the necessary financial support, we have no doubt that the Air League will do its share in ensuring that an appreciation of the implications of what air power really means is impressed upon the country, and especially upon the young people.

## Departure of the Pioneer

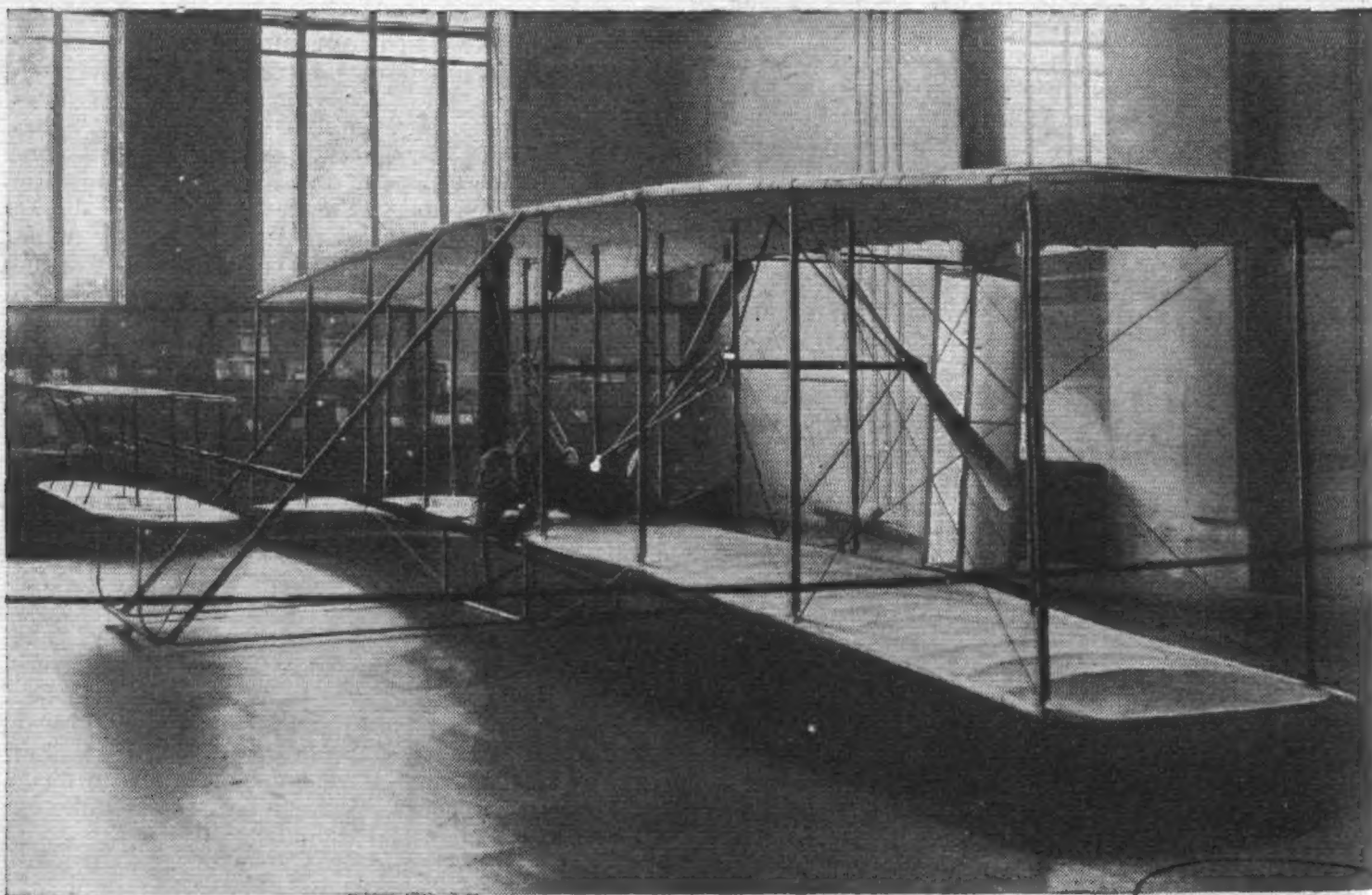
**A**LL who revere the memory of the Wright brothers must feel a touch of sadness at the removal from the Science Museum, South Kensington, of the biplane on which Orville Wright made his historic first free power-driven flight at Kitty Hawk on December 17th, 1903.

The original Wright biplane has occupied the place of honour in the Science Museum for twenty years, but in accordance with the wishes of Orville Wright, expressed shortly before his death, it is now being returned to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. The ceremony of lowering the Wright machine to the floor was attended by representatives of the Royal Aeronautical Society, the Royal Aero Club, the Air Ministry, the Royal Aircraft Establishment, and other bodies. In addition, many British aviation pioneers had taken the opportunity to pay a last tribute to the memory of the Wright brothers. At the ceremony the Minister of

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Education referred to the remarkable progress made in flying during less than half a century, and Mr. L. Satterthwaite, American Civil Air Attache, received the machine on behalf of his Government.

The Wright biplane is not only the first heavier-than-air machine to fly. In addition, the circumstances in which it came to this country in 1928 were such as to merit the fullest honours on the occasion of its departure twenty years later. The Langley "Aerodrome" was exhibited in the Smithsonian Institution with a label which conveyed claims that were not in accordance with facts. Mr. Orville Wright very naturally resented this, and as the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution refused to put matters right, Mr. Wright had his machine removed and sent to the Science Museum, South Kensington, where it was to remain for a period of five years, a period which was later extended. It was fitting that British aviation should honour its departure.



**AFTER TWENTY YEARS.** The original Wright biplane on which Orville Wright made the first power-driven flight in 1903 is being sent back to Washington. It has been in the Science Museum, South Kensington, since 1928, except for the war years. The prone figure of the pilot hides the Wright engine, which is lying on its side. The propellers are chain driven and contra-rotating.